

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below in marked-up form.

1. (Currently Amended) A flying head slider that is incorporated in a disk storage apparatus, which records and reproduces information to and from a disk-shaped storage medium, wherein

a face of said flying head slider, which faces said storage medium, comprises three types of surfaces, which are a positive pressure generating surface; a step that has a lower height than said positive pressure generating surface; and

a recess that has a lower height than said step, wherein

said positive pressure generating surface comprises:

a U-shaped leading pad that comprises a projection on an air inflow side and is positioned at a front part of said slider;

two side pads that are positioned behind said leading pad and to the right and the left side; and

a center pad that comprises a recess on the air inflow side and is positioned between said two side pads and behind said leading pad;

said step comprises:

a leading step that extends from a front edge of said leading pad to a front edge of said slider;

two side steps that extend from the behind of said leading pad and to the right and the left and to connect to said two side pads, respectively; and

a center step that comprises a projection on the air inflow side and extends forward from a front edge of said center pad;

said recess is formed at the peripheries of said center pad and of said center step, which are surrounded by said leading pad and said side steps;

said side steps extend from side parts of said side pads to the side edges of said slider; form a width of said leading pad narrower than a total width of said slider; said leading step and said side steps are joined at the side parts of the slider and extend to the side edges of said slider;

said side steps are wider at the rear;
the rear edge of said center pad ~~are~~is positioned further behind the rear edges of said side pads; and
a head is positioned near the rear edge of said center pad.

2. (Original) The flying head slider of Claim 1, wherein said two side pads comprise projections on the air inflow side.

3. (Original) The flying head slider of Claim 1, wherein said two side pads comprise recesses on the air inflow side.

4. (Currently Amended) The flying head slider of Claim 1, wherein contour parts of said positive pressure generating ~~surfaces~~surface, which ~~can be~~are on an air outflow side with a range of skew angles of use, are directly connect and fall to said recess, without said steps in between, except at areas, that ~~can~~are also ~~be~~ on the air inflow side and are connected to said side steps.

5. (Currently Amended) The flying head slider of Claim 4, wherein the contour parts of said positive pressure generating ~~surfaces~~surface are continuous and comprising only of curved lines and tangent of the curved lines at parts raised from said steps, and have discontinuous shapes at cross points between areas, where the contour parts are raised from said steps, and areas, where the contour parts are raised from said recess, and at cross points between areas where the contour parts are raised from said steps and slider edge faces.

6. (Original) The flying head slider of Claim 1, wherein a shape of said leading pad is such that said leading pad is thickest at a center part and becomes gradually narrower toward both ends.

7. (Currently Amended) The flying head slider of Claim 1, wherein

said positive pressure generating ~~surfaces~~surface, said steps and said recess are symmetrical with respect to a center line of a longitudinal direction of said slider.

8. (Original) The flying head slider of Claim 1, wherein said leading pad is split into two parts in a width direction of said slider.

9. (Currently Amended) A disk storage apparatus comprising a disk shaped recording medium and a flying head slider having a head, which records and reproduces information to and from said recording medium, wherein

a face of said flying head slider, which faces said storage medium, comprises three types of surfaces, which are a positive pressure generating surface; a step that has a lower height than said positive pressure generating surface; and a recess that has a lower height than said step, wherein said positive pressure generating surface comprises:

a U-shaped leading pad that comprises a projection on an air inflow side and is positioned at a front part of said slider;

two side pads that are positioned behind said leading pad and to the right and the left side; and

a center pad that comprises a recess on the air inflow side and is positioned between said two side pads and behind said leading pad;
said step comprises:

a leading step that extends from a front edge of said leading pad to a front edge of said slider;

two side steps that extend from the behind of said leading pad and to the right and the left and to connect to said two side pads, respectively; and

a center step that comprises a projection on the air inflow side and extends forward from a front edge of said center pad;

said recess is formed at the peripheries of said center pad and said of center step, which are surrounded by said leading pad and said side steps;

said side steps extend from side parts of said side pads to the side edges of said slider; form a width of said leading pad narrower than a total width of said slider; said leading step and said side steps are joined at the side parts of said slider and extend to the side edges of said slider;

said side steps are wider at the rear;

the rear edge of said center pad ~~are~~is positioned further behind the rear edges of said side pads; and

a head is positioned near the rear edge of said center pad.

10. (Currently Amended) The disk storage apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said disk storage apparatus is a fixed type hard disk drive wherein said storage medium is incorporated and ~~cannot be removed~~non-removable.

11. (Original) The disk storage apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said disk storage apparatus is a removable hard disk drive, wherein said storage medium is stored in a cartridge and is attached in a removable manner.